

Message Text

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TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: GOF PREOCCUPIED WITH ILO

1. THERE ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION ARE RECEIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION IN GOF CIRCLES AND THAT THE QUAI IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR REVIEW OF GOF POLICY ON THE FUTURE OF ILO.

2. ACCORDING TO A QUAI SOURCE GOF OFFICIALS DEALING WITH ILO ARE DEVELOPING A SYMPATHETIC VIEW TOWARDS THE NUMEROUS PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE ILO STRUCTURE WHICH THE LDCS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WHILE THERE ARE STILL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON SEVERAL POINTS OF THE LDC SUGGESTIONS AMONG THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES, THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONSENSUS ON THE USSR COMPLAINT AND DEMAND THAT A SOCIALIST "EMPLOYER" BE INCLUDED IN THE EMPLOYERS GROUP SITTING IN THE ILO GOVERNING BODY. THE LATEST ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET THESIS IS THAT THE MANAGER OF A SOCIALIST ENTERPRISE QUALIFIES MORE AS AN EMPLOYER IN THE WESTERN SENSE OF THE WORD THAN A SOVIET LABOR LEADER WOULD QUALIFY AS A TRADE UNIONIST UNDER WE STANDARDS. YET

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A SOVIET LABOR REPRESENTATIVE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THE

GB WORKERS GROUP. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THIS CLEVER ARGUMENT WITH THE MODICUM OF TRUTH IT CONTAINS HAS SWAYED EVEN LABOULAYE, THE QUAI'S DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

3. LABATT HAS NOT MISSED ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO POINT OUT THAT UNDER THE ILO TRIPARTITE SYSTEM EACH GROUP IS AUTONOMOUS AND THEREFORE ENTITLED TO ELECT WITHOUT PRESSURES MEMBERS IT CONSIDERS QUALIFIED TO SIT IN GB.

4. AWARE OF THE FOREGOING, QUAI HAS ASKED ONE OF ITS OFFICERS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE CNPF (EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION) WHICH DESIGNATES THE FRENCH EMPLOYER DELEGATE TO THE ILO IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE THEM TO MODIFY THEIR CURRENT OPPOSITION TO THE ELECTION OF SOCIALIST MANAGERS TO GB. QUAI LEVERAGE WITH THE CNPF BEING LIMITED, ITS CHANCES OF CHANGING THE CNPF POSITION ON THIS MATTER ARE QUITE SMALL. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER THE CNPF WOULD BE ABLE TO RESIST PRESSURE IF IT CAME FROM MATIGNON OR ELYSEE.

5. INCLUDED IN GOF PREOCCUPATION WITH ILO IS NEED TO SELECT A GOF DELEGATE TO SUCCEED THE AGING ALEXANDRE PARODI, WHO FOR MANY YEARS REPRESENTED FRANCE IN ILO. THE LEADING CANDIDATE WHO HAS HAD THE SUPPORT OF PARODI, AND PRACTICALLY OF EVERYONE ELSE DEALING WITH ILO MATTERS, HAS BEEN JOSEPH FONTANET, FORMER LABOR AND EDUCATION MINISTER, WHOSE INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE SUFFERED SOMEWHAT WHEN HE FAILED TO BE REELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER 1974. IT IS REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD IS OPPOSED TO FONTANET'S APPOINTMENT BECAUSE HE ENERGETICALLY SUPPORTED CHABAN DELMAS IN THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. NO OTHER NAMES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED SO FAR. GAMMON

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